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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

167th MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOC  
401 COMMERCE ST NASHVILLE TN 37201-1420  
D SINCE 1877  
BER 17, 2002  
VOL. 126  
NO. 36

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Messengers from the more than 2,000 member churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) will gather October 29-30 at First Church, Jackson, for the one hundred sixty-seventh MBC annual meeting.

The messengers will vote on a proposed record Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2003 of \$31,592,787 — a 3.51% increase over the 2002 budget which was itself a record amount.

Native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Richmond, Virginia, will address the meeting at 2:25 p.m. on October 29.

Rankin, who grew up in Tupelo and Clinton, and his wife Bobbyle, a Brookhaven native, are graduates of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton.

Jerry Rankin is also a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth with a master of divinity degree, and he holds honorary doctoral degrees from MC and California Baptist University in Riverside, California.

The Rankins were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in June 1970 by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, now known as IMB.



Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board of the SBC in Atlanta, will also attend the annual meeting and will speak at 11:15 a.m. on October 30.

Reccord, a native of Indiana, became the first NAMB president in June 1997 when the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, and Brotherhood Commission in Memphis merged to form NAMB.

Reccord is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, receiving the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees. He was pastor of First Church in Norfolk, Virginia, when he was tapped for the top NAMB post.

The convention sermon will be delivered at 4:20 p.m. on October 29 by P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch, for more than 27 years.

The New Albany native holds bachelor and master of science degrees from the University of Tennessee-Martin, as well as a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary in Memphis and a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida.



"to live is Christ; to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

October 29-30, 2002 • FBC, Jackson

The popular Bible Treasure series will be brought by D.L. Lowrie of Lubbock, Texas. He is the retired pastor of First Church, Lubbock, and still preaches revivals across the nation.

He holds degrees from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee; Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Missouri; Southwestern Seminary; and honorary doctoral degrees from Dallas Baptist College in Dallas, Texas, and Belmont University in Nashville.

MBC President Frank Pollard of Jackson will preside. Pollard, retired pastor of First Church, Jackson, is in his first one-year term as president and will be eligible for election to a second one-year term.

Pollard's presidential address is scheduled for 11 a.m. on October 29.

Pollard holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas; a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, and a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He is currently serving as a professor for

Truett Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Bill Hardin, pastor of First Church, Picayune, is eligible for a second one-year term as MBC first vice-president. Ernest Sadler, retired missions director for Jackson Association in Pascagoula and currently a MBCB church planting specialist, is eligible for a second term as second vice president.



Lowrie

The top three MBC offices are limited to two consecutive terms. The MBC recording secretary and assistant recording secretary are not term-limited.

Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clark-Venable Church, Newton, is currently serving as recording secretary. Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, is currently serving as assistant recording secretary. Both are eligible for re-election.

Messengers will also vote on trustees for the various agencies and institutions of the MBC and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and will hear annual reports from those agencies and institutions.



Pollard

The October 29 evening session will be highlighted by a concert by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and the MBCB emphasis with Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer.

Providing choral praise during the annual meeting will be:

- October 29 morning session: Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Jackson. Larry Black of First Church, Jackson, will serve as worship leader.

- October 29 afternoon session: Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Olive Branch. Bobby Sanderson, minister of music at First Church, Columbus, and Bill Britton, minister of music at First Church, Olive Branch, will serve as worship leaders.

- October 29 evening session: Mississippi Singing Churchmen. Graham Smith, MBCB director of church music, will serve as worship leader.

- October 30 morning session: Mississippi College Singers. L. Lavon Gray of First Church, McComb, will serve as worship leader.

Parking at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds will not be available this year. A number of new parking lots in close proximity to the church have been opened in recent months. Messengers and visitors are advised to arrive early for the parking places closest to First Church, Jackson.

Information on the 2002 MBC annual meeting can also be obtained at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

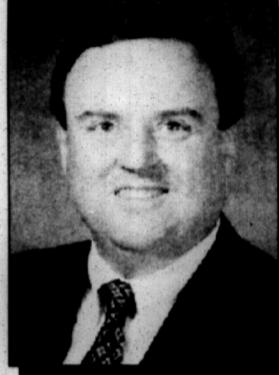
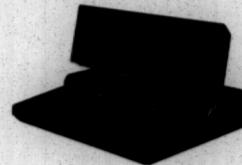
NAMB trustees meet

AB to offer new plan

Sunday School lessons

Baptist Children's Village

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VOLUME 126 NUMBER 36  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

**M**uch has changed about Christianity since the days when people spilled into the aisles of a church and rushed the altar to get right with God, so deep was their conviction that they were sinners in the hands of an angry God. Super-preachers through the years like Jonathan Edwards did their part, the Holy Spirit did His part, and people were saved.

Undoubtedly playing a crucial role in the decisions of many of those people to seek salvation at the foot of the cross were the vivid descriptions of the only other choice available — an eternity in hell. Sinners and saved alike were permanently chastened when they heard of the forlorn consequences of their misconduct.

To comprehend hell is truly beyond our intellectual capacity, so we have to associate it with the feeble words at our disposal in a vain attempt to describe such a hopeless place of torment without end. We've even tried to marginalize the word by reducing it to a common vulgarity shouted at the opposite side of a stadium during a football game.

When we describe a job or some other demanding activity as "pure hell," we have no idea what we're saying. The use of the word as stand-alone profanity is so common in our culture that hardly anyone notices.

We'd better start paying attention again. Hell is not an abstract concept with which we can toy during our endless debates on the nature of God. How many times have we heard the vapid argument, "I simply don't believe a loving God would send anyone to a place like hell."

He can, and He does, when we leave Him with no other choice. Why then do we continue to try to make hell nothing more than the whimsical dwelling place of cute dolls and stuffed animals made in the image of a cartoonish devil and his bumbling imps?

Hell is real. Satan is real. The eternal devastation of hell is real. Yet we have turned it into such a forgotten place that we dress our children for Halloween in the costumes of its occupants.

Jesus understood the nature of hell. We have His parable in Luke 16, commonly known as the Rich Man and Lazarus. Lazarus, described in the parable as poor and sickly, eventually makes it to heaven. The rich man, on the other hand, receives his reward in the eternal fires of hell.

When the rich man spies Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham in heaven, he pleads with Abraham to supply him with a mere drop of water "because I am in agony in this fire."

Abraham can only reply, "... (B)etween us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over there to us."

That's the first hard lesson in this passage about hell: it is permanent, and the gap between heaven and hell is eternally insurmountable. We will be in one place or the other for all time, but not both.

The rich man then begs Abraham to send Lazarus as a messenger to his family, so that his brothers may avoid his fate. Abraham replies, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them."

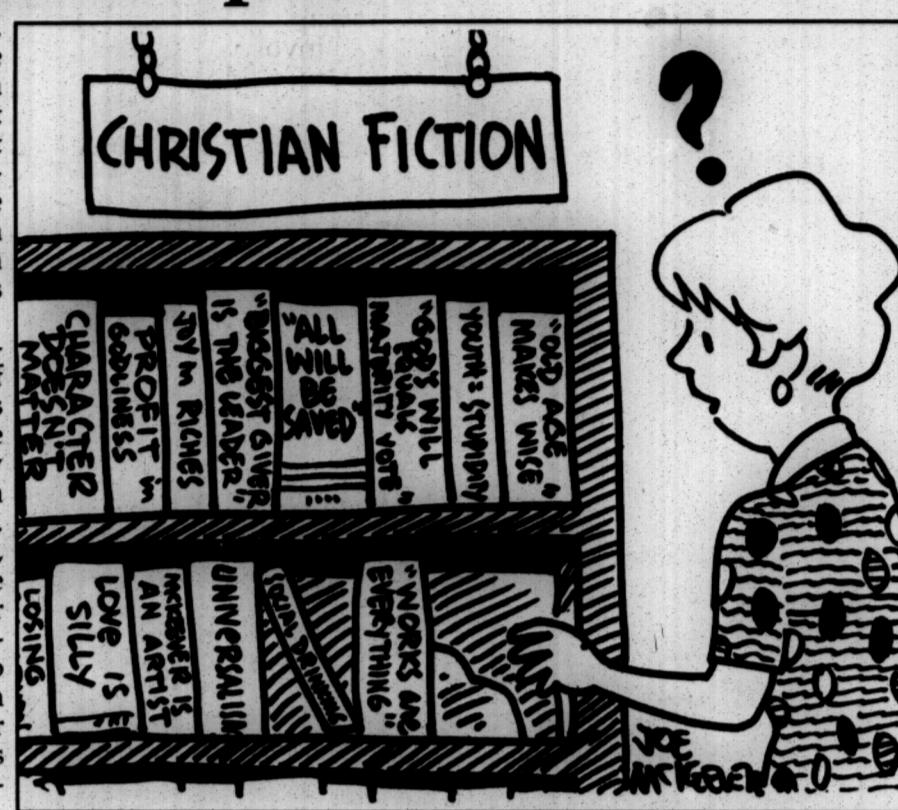
That's the second hard lesson in this passage about hell: we have been given more than adequate guidance on how to avoid hell. We just haven't paid much attention — a point that is reiterated when the rich man again asks Abraham to send Lazarus.

"If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead," Abraham replies.

How sad that millions upon millions of people are still going to hell because they didn't understand it is the real destination of those who reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Hell is hot, heaven is sweet, and Jesus saves. What greater message can we impart to a lost world?

# The forgotten place



## GUEST OPINION:

### Marriage no place for shaky foundation

By Tom Elliff, pastor  
First Southern Baptist Church  
Del City, Oklahoma

way to the foundation which had settled and cracked.

Here was a house that would be hard to sell if a divorce occurred. Who wants a house with poor foundation?

That house with its settling foundation and cracking veneer was the least of their worries. Their home was in a far more serious condition than their house. The pressures of life were revealing the simple fact that this family, like the house in which they lived, was built on something other than a solid foundation. Now the cracks were numerous and exaggerated. The couple despaired of there ever being a way to repair them.

Nothing is more critical to a building than its foundation. Everything rests upon it. Shouldn't appropriate con-

sideration be given to the foundation upon which the future will be built?

No marriage can possibly be all God intends unless both husband and wife possess an intimate, saving relationship with Christ — a relationship which brings them together in the experiences of prayer, worship and faithful service to him. This truth is simply stated in the Scripture. "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11 NASB).

Christ is the foundation upon which everything else in the marriage must be built. Fail here and the marriage will never enjoy God's best, even if the couple should happen to still be married at the end of life's journey.

More than 28 years ago, I began insisting that couples asking me to conduct their marriage ceremony must agree, up front, to participate in a session in which I discuss with them the scriptural prerequisites for marriage, focusing on this simple fact: Since marriage is God's idea and God's institution, it is imperative that the bride and groom each know Christ as Savior AND possess a vital, dynamic relationship with him as Lord.

Given the current proliferation of divorce, the results of this insistence (and the accompanying counseling) has been nothing less than astounding! When a couple is determined to start out right and build on God's principles, they are on the road to a relationship that can stand all the tests life throws at it.

Excerpted from Tom Elliff's soon-to-be-released book, *Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family*. Elliff is a former two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and chairman of the SBC Council on Family Life which, in conjunction with LifeWay Christian Resources and the SBC Pastors' Conference, is hosting the Kingdom Family Rally Monday night, June 17, 2003, in Phoenix, just prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

# Job Corps taking program to Aloha State

HONOLULU (BP and local reports) — Chasing rats out of cupboards, painting bars on windows, and making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches might not be thought of as life-changing ministry, but Hawaii high school students found out differently when they helped an Oahu church start a Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) site.

Homelessness and poverty are as common to many people along Oahu's Leeward coast as the sun, surf and sand. First Church of Nanakuli, a 20-member church in the area, sees this firsthand every Friday as it feeds as many people as it can until the food runs out. Sometimes as many as 200 people receive food in just a few hours.

"They say, 'Thank you,' and they're grateful, and we can feed them forever and still not get them out of poverty," pastor Wayne Waterhouse said.

With many of the people being single women on welfare or homeless on the beach, the church wanted to provide more permanent help than just weekly food distribution.

When Phyllis Waterhouse, the pastor's wife, attended a Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) meeting in Alabama this year, she heard about the WMU-sponsored CWJC and sensed God's answer.

The ministry teaches women basic job skills, involves them in a Bible study and gives them a Christian woman to be a mentor. In the program's five-year history, 256 CWJC ministries have been started across the U.S.

Mississippi Baptists are heavily involved CWJC in Mississippi, through the Mississippi WMU. For more

avenue that seems to really fit this community."

The church faced a problem. The building where CWJC would begin had been broken into three times in the previous month by people looking for food. It was also in need of repair.

With only about 20 people attending, the church was already operating on a limited budget and without a secure facility, the church didn't know how it could bring in computers and office equipment.

"It was my wife Phyllis who pushed ahead and said, 'If God wants it, it'll happen,'" Waterhouse said.

Money for materials was provided by the Central Leeward Oahu Baptist Association, but the church didn't have the manpower or expertise to do the work.

In stepped Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA), a K-12 private Christian school started more than 50 years ago with the help of the WMU and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

When Southern Baptist missionaries wanted to start a school in Honolulu in the 1940s, the WMU of Virginia designated its gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas

Offering for International Missions to the school — \$125,000 over five years. For several years, Southern Baptist missionaries staffed HBA until the school was placed under the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. Today, the state convention appoints the school's board members.

HBA's Christian activities director Rob Lockridge heard about the need at First Church, Nanakuli and knew how he could help. In his first full year at HBA, Lockridge wanted to emphasize ministry among the Christian students on campus. Part of this effort included revamping a program called the Servant Group.

"This year's Servant Group went back to its roots by becoming a group of servants

dedicated to the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ," Lockridge said. "To be servants of God, Christians must not only know Christian theology and ethics, but also live out these beliefs daily."

Lockridge, 83 students, several HBA teachers and staff members, and youth ministers from Hawaii churches devoted extensive time and effort to helping First Church, Nanakuli.

"It was overwhelming, and what [the Servant Group students] did was tremendous," Waterhouse said.

Under the supervision of David Hood from HBA's physical plant, the students replaced termite-eaten doors with new steel doors, replaced old screens, installed and painted anti-theft bars on the windows, installed



POWERED UP — Hawaii Baptist Academy student Amanda Sutherland drills holes for a new door and frame at a new Christian Women's Job Corps site after a training session earlier in the day in using power tools. (BP photo courtesy of Hawaii Baptist Academy)

information, contact Tammy Anderson at Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 948-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)

Phyllis Waterhouse, now a certified CWJC leader, is ready to start the first in Hawaii.

"If we can help some women get back on their feet and find Christ," she said, "then we've done our work. This is one

shelves, cleared out debris and pests, and thoroughly cleaned the facility.

"The building is very old — built in 1963 — but they pretty much renovated the building in one day," Waterhouse said, "and it's not only nice, but secure."

With a secure building, Phyllis Waterhouse is currently recruiting mentors for the program and planning a January 2003 start.

In addition to building renovations, HBA students took peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, pizza, and cookies to homeless people on Leeward Oahu beaches.

Others distributed microwave popcorn and invitations to church to people in the community and had opportunities to talk with and pray for many people who were not Christians.

"The students returned from camp knowing they had made a difference in many people's lives," Lockridge said.

## Looking back

10 years ago

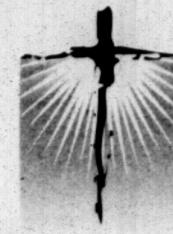
Southern Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt tells the school's trustees that he will retire next year. The surprise announcement stunned trustees and a gallery of faculty, staff, and students at the opening session of the board's semiannual meeting on the Louisville, Ky., campus.

20 years ago

President Reagan does not agree with the view of leaders of the Religious Right that the United States is a "chosen" nation in the sense that Israel was chosen as God's special people in Old Testament times, says Edwin Meese, counselor to the President, in a working luncheon with 15 editors and writers from the religious press.

50 years ago

More than 1,200 church members of various denominations join in signing a petition protesting the sale of beer in grocery stores. The churchmen pledged that they would patronize only those food stores which do not sell beer or other alcoholic beverages.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 17, 2002

VOL. 126

NO. 36

## Discovery Channel taps church

FRESNO, Calif. (BP and local reports) — A Southern Baptist church-planting effort will be featured October 22 on the Discovery Channel when a six-minute segment featuring Set Free Christian Fellowship in Yucaipa, Calif., is scheduled to be included in a Pat Summerall Productions program titled, Champions of Industry. Airtime for the broadcast 6 a.m. central time. Airtime for viewers with satellite or direct TV is 4 a.m. The segment features the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) congregation characterized as "one of the more radical church-planting efforts" of Southern Baptists that helps "set people free from their pasts." The segment outlines the mission of Set Free and the ministries in which the Yucaipa church is involved. Set Free congregations are urban, ministry-based churches designed to reach hurting humanity in inner-city and economically depressed neighborhoods. California Southern Baptists, in cooperation with the North American Mission Board (NAMB), have started 23 Set Free congregations in the Golden State. The California contingent also has started Set Free congregations in the Seattle and Atlanta areas. Willie Dalgity, pastor of Set Free in Yucaipa, and several church members are featured in the segment, along with Fermin A. Whittaker, CSBC executive director, and Phil Langley, director of the CSBC new church extension department. Whittaker was the keynote speaker for one of the sessions of a recent Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting. Melody Romero, one of the church members interviewed for the broadcast, said, "Set Free changed my life because it led me to Jesus, and I learned that I could rely on Jesus instead of drugs and alcohol and men and all that."

# NAMB trustees approve state agreements

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Trustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) approved new working agreements with 18 state Baptist conventions, approved 28 new missionaries, endorsed 30 new

conventions, and all but one were approved as negotiated with state convention staff. However, the proposed agreement with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) was amended in order to

"accommodate their concerns...," Harry Lewis, NAMB's director of strategic coordination, reported.

The new cooperative agreements marked the first time the documents had been renegotiated since NAMB's founding in 1997. The agreements define how NAMB works with individual state Baptist conventions in the joint funding of missions efforts.

The issue in Texas arose when the BGCT executive board changed a negotiated agreement that previously had been approved by the BGCT's state missions commission, missions review and initiatives committee, and administrative committee.

The BGCT board deleted a sentence stating that jointly funded personnel "shall comply with the Baptist Faith and

Message (BFM) 2000," citing concerns that the sentence could leave the impression that the BGCT board approves of the Southern Baptist statement of faith.

Leaders of the BGCT have expressed disagreement with several of the revisions to the BFM in 2000. The issue was resolved in the original agreement with assurances by the BGCT that any missionaries uncomfortable with conforming to BFM as required by NAMB could be appointed as solely funded missionaries of the BGCT.

NAMB trustees responded by moving the references to the BFM into a parenthetical phrase higher in the paragraph to clarify that it was NAMB's requirement only, said Lewis, the lead strategic coordinator for NAMB who helped negotiate the original agreement.

Lewis said that because the BGCT and NAMB have approved different agreements, the issue now likely will have to go back to the BGCT executive board and the existing agreement will remain in effect pending further action.

In adopting a 2003 budget of \$125,562,500, trustees were told by Mike Day, NAMB's vice president for organizational

development, it is "basically a flat budget."

Compared to the NAMB's 2002 budget of \$128,153,625, the new budget reflects a reduction of nearly \$6 million in expenses and \$2.65 million in revenue resulting from the anticipated spinoff next year of the FamilyNet television network into a separate for-profit subsidiary.

That change in FamilyNet's status is pending approval by the SBC Executive Committee in February.

The anniversary celebration served as a conclusion for the meeting. NAMB staff — both in Alpharetta, Ga., and via teleconferencing from Fort Worth, Texas — joined trustees for a time of personal reflections on how the agency has been shaped since it officially began on June 16, 1997.

In other business, Reccord announced appointments to a committee that will examine how to address churches started with NAMB and other Southern Baptist financial assistance that later decide to discontinue being cooperating Southern Baptists. The committee will include three NAMB staff members, three trustees, and three executive directors of state conventions.



REACHING OUT — North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary Kareem Goubran (left) and his young son Kenny visit with pastor Nagi Yousef of the First Arabic Baptist Church in Yonkers, N.Y. Weekly meals are served by the church in a heavily Muslim neighborhood, where NAMB funds help Goubran reach out to the lost people of the area. (BP photo)

chaplains, and celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Southern Baptist entity's founding during their regular meeting October 9 in Atlanta.

Most of the cooperative agreements still need to be approved by the state Baptist

## New PAX television series to feature deaf Christian

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (BP) — Sue Thomas is a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She is deaf, travels with a hearing-ear dog, and reads lips.

She comes across as an intelligent woman with a jovial mood, a hearty belly laugh, and with lots more on her mind than promoting a TV series — even with the new action drama that is named for her, Sue Thomas: F.B.I.Eye, which premiered Oct. 13 on the PAX network.

The two-hour opener airs at 8 p.m. central time and was developed by Dave and Gary Johnson, who also created the PAX network's top-rated show Doc starring Billy Ray Cyrus. (Doc premieres an all-new episode that same night, written by the show's star.)

Thomas is happy about the series, of course. The reason: It's one more outlet where people can be reminded that there is a healing force available to complete their lives. Although the show does not preach, it does present a working woman in an exotic job who lives a Christian lifestyle.

Spending time with Thomas reflects what the late Corrie ten Boom once declared: "There is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still."

When she was 18 months old, Thomas was watching television with her family when she suddenly could not hear. "No specialist in this country can tell me how or why I lost

my hearing or, for that matter, how to restore it," Thomas said.

The problem came to a head when she tried to solve her problem by turning up the volume full-blast. Her mother promptly turned it back down. Upon repeating her action, Thomas was scolded but her parents soon realized something was drastically wrong and rushed her to their family doctor in Youngstown, Ohio.

Referrals to hearing specialists followed. Despite various operations and experimental treatments in subsequent years, nothing could restore her hearing. So her parents made her a lifetime vow to do whatever they could — absolutely everything in their power and within their means — to enable her to become as much a part of the hearing world as possible.

Her parents held true to that promise, giving their youngest of four children all the physical and mental support they could. Sue's treatments included expensive therapy at Youngstown's Hearing and Speech Center, where she learned to speak by imitating the vibrations she felt when she placed her hands on the therapist's throat and by looking in

the mirror to shape her mouth the way the therapist was doing hers.

Later came endless hours with voice and drama coaches. After hours of hard work, Thomas began to learn how to read lips and speak naturally but due to the somewhat nasal sound of her speech — common in a people unable to hear their own voices — her fellow elementary school classmates taunted and ridiculed her.

Her parents bestowed a great gift that surpassed the cruelty of other children. They gave a supportive love which fueled their daughter's confidence.

"My mother had a painting of Jesus hanging in my bedroom," Thomas recounted. "She explained that with God's help, there was absolutely nothing in my life I couldn't do."

Thomas persevered, going on to take music lessons, ice skating, and later completing graduate studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

She then went to work at the FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. At first, she helped start a program to train deaf people to classify fingerprints. However, with her superb ability to read



Sue Thomas

lips, she was approached by agents who had videotaped an investigation, only to find the camera's sound mechanism had failed. "They asked if I could read the people's lips and tell what was being said."

Her success in that high-profile case led to work in undercover surveillance. "It was no problem for me to stand across the room in, say, an airport where a deal was going down and take verbatim notes on what the suspects were saying."

Despite her success with the FBI, Thomas was unsatisfied. Looking to other horizons, she entered the Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions in Columbia, S.C., where she found nurture for her life's desire to proclaim the love and forgiveness of God through his son, Christ Jesus.

"The idea for a series has been in the works for 12 years," Thomas said. "When my autobiography was published by Tyndale 12 years ago, Columbia bought the option to turn it into a screenplay. They had that for one year and they couldn't decide what direction they wanted to take it."

"Should it be totally about the FBI? Others thought it was too inspirational, too spiritual. So after a year, they dropped it but the senior vice president of Columbia TV was behind it. He told me, 'You have a story and it's going to be told. It may take 10 or 15 years, but it's going to be told.'

# Annuity Board to offer new '03 health plan

DALLAS (BP) — Leaders at the Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Dallas say they are continuing to explore options to ensure Southern Baptist ministers and denominational workers and their families who participate in AB medical plans will continue to have affordable choices in healthcare coverage.

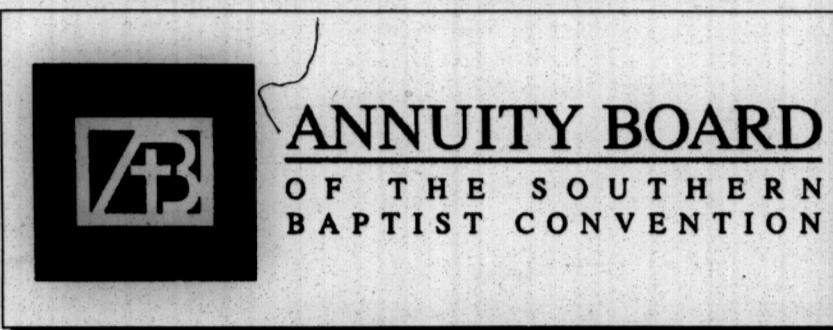
In 2003, a new lower cost Comprehensive Medical plan level will be offered, new provider networks will be in place, and a well baby care benefit will be added to all levels of the plan.

Funding for the AB medical plans comes directly from monthly payments for coverage received from participants and employers. The AB receives no SBC Cooperative Program funds to subsidize its medical plans. When current medical plan rates are not sufficient to cover projected claims and expenses for the upcoming year, rates are increased.

"We are aware of the financial burden our participants are facing and the difficult decisions to be made when choos-

ing a medical plan," said Doug Day, the board's executive officer for benefit services. "For most participants, what was

Of course everyone would prefer the highest benefit plan," Day said, "but in reality, some individuals may need to con-



once a decision based upon benefits has now become a decision based upon affordability, benefits, and protection during a catastrophic illness."

With the addition of a new Comprehensive Medical plan option for 2003, the Annuity Board will offer four Comprehensive Medical plan levels—in addition to the HMO plans available in certain areas.

"The new Level Four plan costs about 45% less than the Level One plan and has a higher deductible, copay amounts, and out-of-pocket maximums.

sider other options. A plan level with a lower monthly rate but a higher deductible and copay percentage can provide the protection a family needs in the event of a serious illness or injury. Some churches are choosing to use the plan with the higher deductible and copay percentage and then self-insure for the difference in the deductible and the copay."

To provide more participants with a broader choice of network doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, the Annuity Board is also expanding

its preferred provider organization (PPO) networks for 2003.

As an advocate for its participants, the Annuity Board is taking a three-pronged approach in the facing of healthcare increases, leaders point out.

First, the Annuity Board is doing what it can to hold down administrative costs and design plans to meet its participants' needs. While the national average for administrative expenses is 15%, expenses for the Annuity Board plans are only 12%.

Second, to create a win-win situation, the AB is encouraging individuals to improve their own health by living a healthier lifestyle. More than one-half of last year's medical claims were related to situations that could have been prevented with healthier lifestyles.

Finally, the AB is making a concentrated effort to make church leaders aware of the mounting healthcare crisis and asking them to provide adequate employee benefits for their employees — apart from the salary package.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Some years ago, USA WEEKEND Magazine began to promote a day in October that they called Make a Difference Day. On that one day everyone is encouraged to do something that will make a difference. It may be that it would be a one-time, one-day event, and on the other hand, it may be that making a difference will be an on-going lifestyle. For some, Make a Difference Day may be the beginning of making a difference in many other ways as days go by.

This year, Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 26. I would point out to you that as you prepare to make a difference, the things you do sometimes aren't even noticed. On the other hand, some of the things that you are not even aware of, affect people's lives. Recently, I was visiting with a former church member whom I had not seen in a while. As we talked and reminisced about old times, he told me that he often recalled, with laughter, a story I had told about jogging early one morning before the sun came up. I was running across a bridge and in the foggy, dark shadows of the morning a fellow, unnoticed by me, was sitting over to the side of the bridge. As I was running by, he called out to me and said, "Hey mister!" I nearly had a stroke! As my friend reflected on the story, he laughed as he thought how humorous that was.

As we stood there and talked, I thought about how many sermons my friend had heard me preach during the time I was his pastor. I thought about how many hours and hours of study and preparation



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I had poured into those sermonic moments, only to have him remember the story of me being scared on a bridge one morning. My point is that as you think about things that you can do on Make a Difference Day, just keep in mind that it could be the little thing that you do or say that may stick with someone, while the big thing that you think about and attempt to do may be overlooked or soon forgotten. Still, the effort is worth it and you will be blessed as you bless others.

In today's Directions let me just give you a quick outline of about ten possibilities for Make a Difference Day:

- **Start the day with prayer.** It may sound simple and to some folks it may sound small, but remember, prayer parted the Red Sea, brought rain from the skies, locked the jaws of lions, and overcomes temptations. While some people think they are too busy to pray, the reality is that most of us are too busy not to pray!

- **Write a note that you have been putting off.** I'm not talking about e-mail. I'm talking about sitting down and taking the time to think through, compose, and put in your own handwriting, a personal note to someone

you have been needing to encourage. It doesn't have to be very long, but it can be forever helpful. Just remember that most of the writings of the Apostle Paul, even the short works, were letters that he wrote as he was guided by God.

- **Plant a tree.** I'm not particularly concerned about what kind of tree, just plant one and it will give you two things to watch for: you can watch it grow, and you can observe it as day by day God gives and gives and gives so that it will be provided for. Whether it is sunshine or rain, air or nutrients - God gives!

- **Smile at everyone you meet.** Don't miss smiling at anyone and start with your family. Include friends. Include people you don't like. Include people who don't like you. Wherever you go, whenever you see, just smile at them. Some of you may be out of practice, so you will need to spend some time and exercise getting ready. Go get you a mirror and just look at yourself normally, then smile and you will see why it makes a difference.

- **Do an unrewarded, undetected good deed.** This may take some thought and effort,

but find some way to do something nice for someone where they cannot detect that you did it. Just keep it to yourself for a lifetime and let them spend their lifetime trying to figure out who, among the hundreds they know, was so nice.

- **Let someone ten years younger than you, or ten years older, know how much you appreciate him or her.** Our world has become so chronologically segregated that oftentimes generations on either side of us do not know that we are actually connected and actually appreciate each other.

- **Offer to keep the children for some couple so that they can have a break and go on a date.**

- **Write an anonymous, positive letter of appreciation.** While an anonymous, critical letter can be a cowardly act of intellectual terrorism, a positive anonymous letter can be an act of thought-provoking joy.

- **Intentionally approach a policeman or fireman and tell them how much you appreciate all that they do.**

- **Last, but not least — in fact, last but first, tell someone, at least one person, about Jesus.** Tell one person that Jesus loves them and that He is the one who can make a difference in their life in this world and in the world to come. That, my friends, will make Make a Difference Day a day of eternal consequences.

## Christmas gift ministry opening soon

A pair of Mississippi Baptist churches has agreed to serve as collection centers for Operation Christmas Child, a program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse that provides Christmas gifts for needy children around the world.

First Church, Columbus, will collect the gifts from November 18-25, in the church's activity building behind Columbus Public Library. Gifts will be received from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day except November 25, when the program will close at noon. For more information, contact Nelda Brown at (601) 356-4908, or the church at (601) 328-3915.

Parkway Church, Hernando, will collect gifts from November 18-24 at the church's facilities at 50 N. Parkway Street. For more information, contact Pastor Mike Ramage at (662) 429-6045, or Becky Nance at (662) 622-0202.

Gifts should be new and sized to fit in a shoebox supplied by the gift giver. The shoebox should be wrapped and identified by gender and age of intended recipient. Gift suggestions and restrictions can be found at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). For a brochure listing the suggestions and restrictions, contact the Mississippi Baptists listed above.

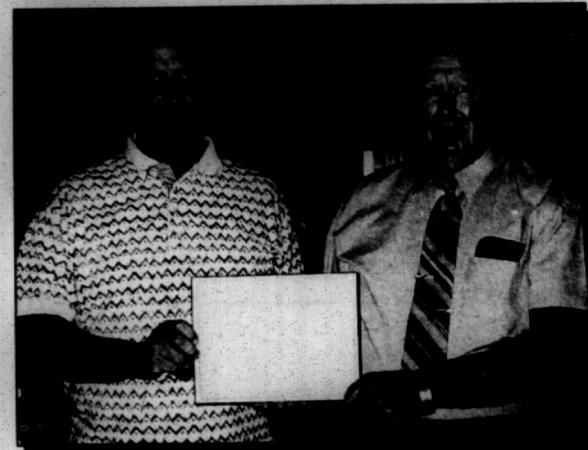
## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Flowood Church, Flowood**, ordained Ervin Wright as a deacon on Sep. 29. Pictured (from left) are Mike Pollard, Wright, and his wife Peggy.



Pollard and Ervin & Peggy Wright

**Margaret Harrison** was honored on Sep. 15 at Utica Church, Utica, for over 50 years of teaching Sunday School. She was presented with a plaque, roses, and a bracelet from the children.



Mike Norris & Cliff Rutland

Scholarship for college students. A scholarship was presented to Curtis Wicker on Feb. 3.

**Irene Brown** was honored at Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, for over 40 years service as church secretary. She was presented with a silver tray in appreciation. Pictured (from left) are Bob Lynch, pastor, and Brown.



Brian & Donna Roberson and Callaway

**Bentley Sills**, Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, was recognized for perfect Sunday School attendance for the past year.

**Victory Church**, Bassfield, ordained **Mike Norris** as deacon on Sep. 22. Pictured (from left) are Norris and Cliff Rutland. Charles Broome is pastor.

**Chapel Hill Church, Utica**, held a deacon ordination for Brian Roberson on Sep. 29. Pictured (from right) are Roberson, his wife Donna, and Ricky Callaway, pastor.

**The Joy Ladies' Sunday School** of Gunter Road Church, Florence, established the Louise Walker Duncan Memorial

**Rocky Creek Church**, Lucedale, held a deacon ordination on Sep. 29 for **Danny Smith** and **Terry Kittrell**. Smith is a third generation deacon in the same church. Pictured (from left) are Smith, Roy Myers, and Kittrell.

**Holly Church, Corinth**, held a Baby Dedication for Jayden Hastings, Felicity Thorne, and Kayleigh Williamson on Sep. 22. Tony Morrow is pastor.

**Cambridge Church, Gautier**, is hosting their annual Fall Festival Sat., Oct. 26, from



Lynch and Brown

Road, Gautier, Miss. This is an outreach to the surrounding community, not a fund raising event. There will be free games and prizes for children. For more information, call (228) 497-1329 or (228) 497-3805.

**The Women Ministering to Women Conference**, hosted by the women of Edon Church, 576 County Road 7, Stringer, Miss., will be held on



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



Danny Smith, Roy Myers, & Terry Kittrell

**SHARE FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
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**(601) 856-9158**



Baby Dedication - Holly Church, Corinth

**Sharing Our Joy...**

November 9-10, 2002  
Natchez, Mississippi



**Parkway  
Baptist Church**  
**50th  
Anniversary**

*...Pursuing our vision*

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 17, 2002

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

## *Mobile Missions Mobilization* CELEBRATION November 15-16, 2002

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street**

**Featuring: Co-hosts Ken Rhodes and Karen Ivy**

- Celebration Banquet – 6:30 p.m.
- Mobilization Displays
- Music/Drama/Testimonies
- Strategic Contributions of Volunteers

Yvonne Bruce



Yvonne Bruce  
Speaker

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street**

**Featuring:**

- Continental Breakfast – 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
- Devotional
- Conferences
- 1) Ukraine
- 2) North America
- 3) Mississippi Strategies of Mobilization



Sheri Engle  
Music

You are invited to this exciting time of celebrating what God is doing through Mississippi volunteers. You will meet and hear the stories of many of these volunteers.

Banquet Cost: \$10 Reservations are required by November 12.

Send in completed form below or call 601-292-3398 by November 12.



#### **RESERVATION FORM**

Partnership Missions Celebration, November 15-16, 2002

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete form and mail to:

Missions Mobilization Department

MBCB

PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Phone 601-292-3398 or 1-800-748-1651

## **Youth Ministers Workshop**

November 11-13, 2002

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville



**"Hey, It's More than  
Survival or Success;  
It's Significance!"**

***In a world focused on Survivor and Success,  
student ministry must be centered  
in Significance.***



Barry St. Clair  
Reach Out Youth Solutions  
Atlanta



Chuck Gartman  
Youth Ministry Services  
Howard Payne University  
Brownwood, Texas



Kevin Williams  
KW Ministries  
Columbus



Myrna Gregory  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Brandon

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305 (Jackson).

## **Mississippi Delta MissionsFEST 2002 FOLLOW-UP, Tchula, Miss.**

**November 16, 2002**

## **MissionsFEST 2002**

Come help complete the weatherization project (light construction & home repairs), community cleanup, prayer garden and prayerwalk. There is no cost to participate. Meals are on your own.

Participants must register with Mississippi WMU by **11/8/02**

#### **MissionsFEST FOLLOW-UP Registration**

(Group) Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

No. in Group (male) \_\_\_\_\_ (female) \_\_\_\_\_

Groups/individuals are responsible for transportation to ministry sites. Please copy this form and register groups separately for each ministry project.

Weatherization \_\_\_\_\_ Comm. Cleanup \_\_\_\_\_ Prayerwalking \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Garden \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MS WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316.

# Sharing Christ In Love

## Lay Missions Conference

First Baptist Church, Jackson  
October 28, 2002

Missions Banquet  
Keynote Speaker

**Mickey Caison**  
*Adult Volunteer Mobilization, NAMB*  
*Celebrating 25 Years*  
*of Disaster Relief*



Interest Conferences – 3 p.m.

Agricultural Missions  
Educational Missions  
Volunteers in Missions  
Construction Missions  
Campers on Mission  
Literacy Missions  
Restorative Justice

Missions Banquet – 5 p.m.

Dinner  
Music  
Recognitions  
Message

## MISSISSIPPI YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

A.J. WOOD CENTER  
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON  
DECEMBER 30-31, 2002

Registration begins at noon  
First session starts at 2 p.m.  
Concludes Tuesday at 3 p.m.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2002**  
Call Men's Ministry for more info: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3334  
Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Mission Strategy Team



**PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S  
LEADERSHIP FESTIVAL**  
**2 • 0 • 0 • 2**  
**COST \$10 EACH**

**NOVEMBER 15 AT 3:15 P.M. – NOVEMBER 16 AT 12:50 P.M.**

**MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG**

Preregistration is requested by November 1, 2002.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR ALL PRESCHOOL LEADERS AND ALL CHILDREN'S LEADERS

(Sunday School teachers; Discipleship Training teachers; Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassador mission leaders; Church Weekday administrators, teachers, and caregivers; Mother's Day Out teachers; and children's worship leaders)



### KEYNOTE FEATURE

**THE ORR'S**  
*One Way Ministries*

*featuring also*

**TODD CAPPS**, *LifeWay specialist*  
**JAN MARLER**, *LifeWay specialist*  
*and other leaders from around our state*

Sponsored by MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry  
For more info, call Don Hicks 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

## Annual Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives

**October 28, 2002, 1-4:30 p.m.**  
**Fifth Floor**  
**First Baptist Church, Jackson**

There is no cost for this conference. In order for us to better prepare, please preregister, even if you will not need child care. Contact Matt Buckles, Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530 or fax 601-714-7426 or E-mail [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org).

**For more information  
call 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305**

Child care will be provided by First Baptist Church, Jackson. They will need to know number and ages of children, before October 21. If needed, the phone number for FBC, Jackson, is 601-949-1900.

### FEATURING

- Dorothy Henderson – "Hospitality Evangelism"
- Kay Faulkenberry – "Growing Strong Through the Seasons of Life"
- Betty Gregory – "Serving with a Positive Attitude"
- Michael and Yana Allen – Music



## GA Missions Madness "Planting God's Garden"

**Saturday, November 2, 2002**  
**Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson**  
**Cost: \$5**  
**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**  
**9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**For more information, please contact the Mississippi WMU  
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3322.**

### Registration for GA Missions Madness, November 2, 2002

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Assoc. \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_ (\$5) per person for the registration fee for \_\_\_\_ GAs and leaders. There must be one leader for every five girls. The early registration deadline is October 18. If there is still space available after the deadline date, registrations will be accepted at a cost of \$7.50 per person. Mail your payment with the registration form to: WMU Department, MBCB, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. Make check payable to MBCB for the GA Missions Madness event.

Person making reservation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_



### 2003 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEWS

## Doctrine of Prayer

*with*

**T.W. Hunt**

**Make your plans now!**

**Preregistration is requested. All previews are from 9 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$10, which includes registration for the preview, brunch and a copy of the study course book.**

### MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 2003  
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo



Steve & Becky Carver  
Ronnie Floyd  
Jack Graham  
Rick Greene  
Richard Jackson  
Danny Lanier  
Slater Murphy

Reggie & Ladve Smith  
Jay Strack  
Don Taylor  
Aaron Tomes  
Ray Walker  
Steve Walker

### GA Missions Madness

1-800-748-1651

For more info contact the MBCB Evangelism Department  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



## Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference

**July 10-12  
2003**

**Gulfshore Baptist  
Assembly**

### FEATURING:

**Calvin Miller  
Samford University  
Carol Tornquist  
Piano  
Carolyn Hamlin  
Organ**

**CLASSES FOR:**  
**Praise Teams/Praise Bands  
Youth Music  
Preschool/Children's Music  
Handbells  
Orchestra  
Bivocational Ministers of Music**

**For more info, contact MBCB Church Music: 601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651**

# Pray this day for...

# October 18 - November 7, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things (necessities of life) shall be given unto you." Matthew 6:33*

On the large Madagascar Indian Ocean island, off the coast of East Africa, there has been a killer virus that has already killed 186 people in a couple of weeks. Pray for this country, which has seen so much hardship over the last year. Not only are the physical needs in many areas overwhelming, but there is a need for the Great Physician as well.

For: (1) Mission Service Corps' Annual Meeting, Baptist Building, Jackson (MM); (2) Pray for mission work in Taiwan. There are fewer mission personnel there than in 30 years. Taiwan has over 23 million people and only a little over 2% are professing Christians.

Missionaries in Chile write: "We praise God for the women who are involved in the neighborhood Bible studies in Vina del Mar. Please pray that God will provide a Christian man to begin a ministry with the husbands of these ladies."

For Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson, 1 - 4:45 p.m. (P/LD); (3) Lay Missions Conference, FBC, Jackson, 3 - 5 p.m. (MM); (4) Lay Missions Banquet, FBC, Jackson, 5-7 p.m. (MM).

For: (1) Voter Awareness Day (CAC Emphasis); (2) RA Emphasis Week, 3rd - 9th (MM Emphasis); (3) The Silesia Team in Poland writes, "Pray that our coffeehouse ministry will find strategic ways to reach out to the university students and it will draw students with hungry hearts to know God."

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting; (2) Pray for the housewives of Japan, many with no children or children in school. They have more time for activities than any other segment of Japan's population. Pray that they will use their extra time for Bible study and pass on their faith to their husbands and children.

For: (1) Associational Missions Directors' & Seminary Extension Directors' Breakfast, Baptist Building Chapel, Jackson, 7 - 8 a.m. (P/LD); (2) Chaplains' Fall Banquet, Baptist Building Skyroom, 4:45-6:30 p.m. (CPD); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson, 29th - 30th.

T. hailed a taxi and headed home from Bible study at the Arabic church in his city. The taxi driver asked about the book he was carrying, an English/Arabic Bible. T. began to share the message of the book and his faith. The driver said, "I've always wanted to read some of it." T. offered the driver his own Bible and he accepted it. Pray that his interest will lead to faith.

Praise God for a house church movement in Sichuan, China, that devotes three days each month to training Sunday School teachers. Pray for the 400,000,000 Chinese under age 18 to be able to hear the good news.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, immediately following the last session of the convention, Baptist Building Chapel; (2) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers Wives Breakfast, Baptist Building Chapel, Jackson, 7-8 a.m. (P/LD).

Bob Hataway, Frankston, Texas, is a corporate chaplain. Bob founded TransAlive USA in 1984, a non-profit organization providing crisis intervention for truckers. Pray for the truckers who have been responsible for carrying the debris away from ground zero.

Mberto Hernandez in Lancaster, Pa., is on the church multiplication team. Pray for the Bible study meeting in Manor Baptist Church. Pray as he volunteers at the library in York with the purpose to reach Hispanic people. Pray for a pastor for Northside Hispanic Chapel.

Pray for Guatemalan Baptists' first International missionaries, 'Abraham and Sarah.' They are preparing to go to North Africa to serve among Muslims. They are working on a specific timeline for their departure. Pray that Guatemalan Baptists will support them with prayer and financial support.

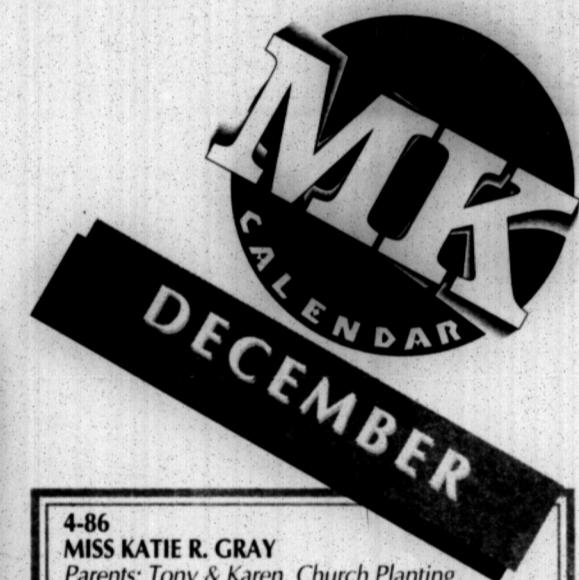
For: (1) GA Mother/ Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) The story of the deaf on the islands off the coast of Colombia is very sad. They have never been allowed to attend school. In the last few years a school has opened on two islands for all disabled, but it may not be meeting the needs of the deaf. Pray for these to have the opportunity to learn sign language.

The student ministry team of Indonesia writes: "God has opened the door for us to teach in one of the larger universities in Indonesia. Pray for the thousands of lost young people walking the campus halls, searching for meaning and purpose in life. Pray that their hearts will be open to the truth of His Word."

For: (1) State GA Day, Parkway BC, Clinton (WMU); (2) Pray for one of our missionaries, in South America, who will be teaching in an institute for new believers who were former members of an Old World religion. He has a tremendous opportunity to share during this week-long seminar on missions.

Thank the Lord for the way He blessed in giving the Ghana Baptist Convention a very successful annual session. Ask Him to continue to bless the president and general secretary of the convention as they lead Ghana Baptists.

Drug addiction is a tool used by the devil to retard the understandability and acceptance of God's Good News among the Muslim peoples of Eastern Africa. Many spend their afternoons chewing an hallucinogenic plant that dulls their senses and allows them to escape reality. Ask God to destroy the stronghold of drug addiction in the lives of these people.



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAIN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL BANQUET

October 29, 2002 4:45 p.m.

Baptist Building, Skyroom, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson

All chaplains,  
volunteers and career, are  
invited to join us for a good  
Bar-B-Que dinner and  
fellowship.

The banquet is no cost to  
chaplains who have paid their dues to the  
Chaplain's Association for 2002/2003.

For nonmembers of the  
association, the cost is \$8 each.

For more information, call Elaine Smith at  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361

### SPEAKER Charles Jones

Prison Ministries Consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Certified ICISF Trainer in Pastoral Crisis Intervention

Charles will speak to us on  
"The Chaplain and Critical Incident Stress  
Intervention"

4-86  
**MISS KATIE R. GRAY**  
Parents: Tony & Karen, Church Planting

6-88  
**MISS MARISA M. WOMBLE**  
Parents: Freddie & Karen, Church Planting

14-85  
**MR. ALLEN D. LIGHTSEY**  
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Literature Distribution

20-78  
**MR. JOHN A. LATHAM**  
Parents: Tony & Kathy, Theological Education

For security, cards will be  
forwarded.  
Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name  
MBCB Church Growth  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Agricola Church, Lucedale**, burnt the note on their sanctuary on Aug. 25. Pictured (from left) Jimmy Vise, Greg Logan, and Jim Younge. Terry Long is pastor.



Note Burning of Agricola Church, Lucedale

**First Church, Summit**, youth completed the first of eight ministry projects in the Summit area. On Sep. 18 students and teachers gathered for a Power Prayer Walk. They picked up trash on the streets and prayed for homes along the way. The program consists of Bible study (first and second Wednesdays), ministry (third Wednesday), and worship (fourth Wednesday).



North Delta Associational Choir

The Adult North Delta Associational Choir, under the direction of Grant West, performed a 9-11 musical collection on Sep. 11 at Coahoma County High School, Clarksdale.

**Damascus Church, Flora**, recently held a ground breaking ceremony for their new building. Youth attendance has grown from about 20 to 70 in the past four years.

**Cason Church, Nettleton**, presents The Sacrifice on Oct. 30-Nov. 6. This walk-thru drama depicts the tragedy of death and our choices concerning eternity. Scenes are graphic and children must be accompanied by an adult.



Ground Breaking at Damascus Church, Flora

Church groups (by appointment only) may attend Wed., Oct. 30; Mon., Nov. 4; and Wed., Nov. 6; from 7-9 p.m. It will be open to the public Thurs., Oct. 31, from 7-9 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., Nov. 1 and 2, from 7-11 p.m.; and Tues., Nov. 5, from 7-10 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. For an appointment or more information, call (662) 871-9101 or (662) 256-9687.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



Youth of First Church, Summit

## Come now is the time to worship

Introducing a Master of Arts in Worship for the 21st century

The new 48-hour Master of Arts in Worship is a specialized degree designed to provide basic skills needed to lead worship in any setting.

This new degree offers:

- ◆ lifelong skills amid changing trends
- ◆ world-renown faculty
- ◆ unequaled expertise, specialization, and cutting-edge training

This degree will develop your breadth of competence by exposing you to a variety of courses in academic and performance areas.

If God is calling you to worship ministry, call 1-800-SWBS-1000 or e-mail music school Dean Benjamin Horlan at [smusic@swbts.edu](mailto:smusic@swbts.edu)



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Touch the World... Impact Eternity  
[www.swbts.edu](http://www.swbts.edu)



## Southeastern Bus Sales

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**Jesus Christ**  
Requests the Honor  
of Your Presence  
in Heaven!

### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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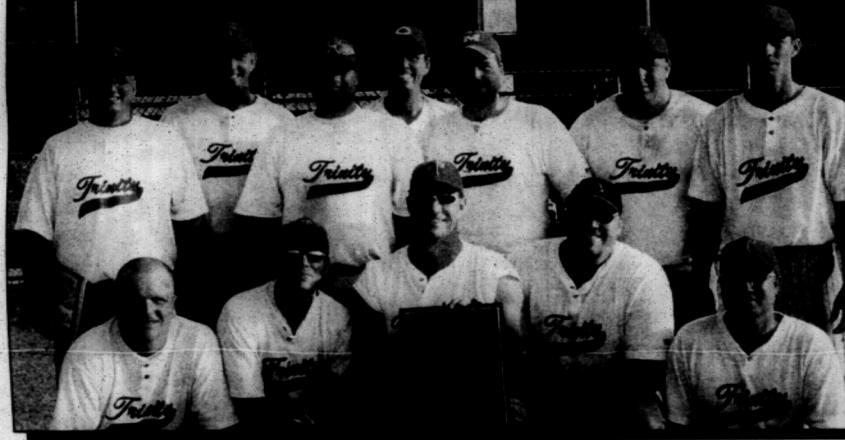
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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

The state church softball champions (pictured) for 2002 are as follows: Class A (churches from 0 to 300 in Sunday School enrollment) Women, Pine Forest, Collinsville, and Men, Long Creek, Meridian; Class AA (301 to 700 enrollment) Women, Immanuel, Vicksburg, and Men, Immanuel, Vicksburg; and Class AAA (701 and over enrollment) Women, Morrison Heights, Clinton, and Men, Trinity, Southaven. The sportsmanship awards are as follows: Class A Women, Juniper Grove, Poplarville, and Men, New Hope, Amory; Class AA Women, Calvary, Bogue Chitto, and Men, Midway, Meridian; and Class AAA Women, First, Columbia, and Men, First, Grenada.



Class AA Womens Champions - Immanuel, Vicksburg



Class AAA Mens Champions - Trinity, Southaven



Class A Mens Champions - Long Creek, Meridian



Class A Womens Champions - Pine Forest, Collinsville



Class AAA Womens Champions - Morrison Heights, Clinton



Class AA Mens Champions - Immanuel, Vicksburg



Teresa and Glenn Nace

Glenn and Teresa Nace will be honored for 20 years of service at Kokomo Church, Kokomo, on Oct. 20. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided at noon, and the anniversary service will begin at 2 p.m. A reception will follow.



Ernest Sadler announced his retirement, after fourteen years, as Executive Director of the Jackson County Association.

Sadler will work as a Consultant of Church Planting Strategy with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Tom Miller, Associate Missions Director, accepted appointment as Interim Missions Director.



White

Sandersville Church, Sandersville, held a reception on Aug. 25 for C. Robert (Bob) White. White has resigned after 14 years as youth minister at Sandersville to attend University of Southern Mississippi and become a school teacher.

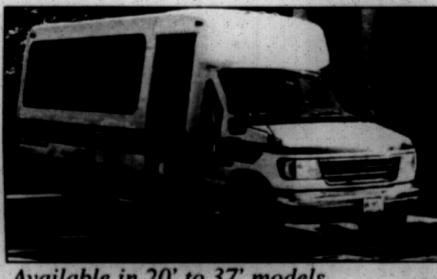


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Homecoming, Oct. 25-26, at **Mississippi College**, Clinton, includes special events and traditions.

MC's homecoming game is on Sat., at 6 p.m., when MC takes on Austin College in Robinson-Hale Stadium. At half-time the homecoming court will be introduced, followed by the crowning of the 2002 queen by MC President Lee Royce. A special pre-game show featuring the Choctaw Marching Band will be held on the quad at 5 p.m.

The traditional homecoming parade will take place on Sat. at 2 p.m.

On Fri., activities include: The D.M. Nelson-Aubrey McLemore Golf Tournament at the Caroline Golf Club in Madison. Tee Time is 1:15 p.m. Awards will be presented. Follies at 6:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium. There is a \$3 admission fee for this event. Following Follies, the SGA will sponsor a Pizza-Homecoming Buffet on the Piazza. Open House will be held from 7-10 p.m. at the Latimer House for '50s alumni, and one for '80s alumni from 7-9 p.m. at the Home of Jim and Jenny Turcotte (call (601) 981-6739 for information on Turcotte open house).

Homecoming festivities on

Sat. will begin at 9 a.m. with registration in the lobby of Alumni Hall. A special feature this year will be Just for Kids, on the MC quad, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. There will be a space walk, free balloons, and games for the little Choctaws, sponsored by the SGA. Class reunions and club receptions will begin at 10 a.m. and the Homecoming Awards Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. in Anderson Grand Hall, BCR Student Center.

President Lee Royce will host a reception at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The Naturals will perform at 3 p.m. in Swor Auditorium. Departmental receptions will be held from 4-5 p.m. with Departmental Distinguished Alumni being honored. Special alumni awards for Homecoming 2002 are: Alumnus of the Year, Ray Eugene Hannah, Fairburn, Ga.; Young Alumnus of the Year, Janice G. Baddley, Clinton; Award of Excellence, John McCall, Clinton; Order of the Golden Arrow, Bowen Causey Dees, Escondido, Calif., and Sam Gore, Clinton.

For more information call (601) 925-3208, or email clay@mc.edu.

## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

**Providence, Meadville:** Oct. 20; Talmadge Smith, guest speaker; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing; for more information, call (601) 384-5965.

**Military, Sumrall:** Oct. 19-23; Sat., dinner at 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Burnham, evangelist; Charlie Case, music; Mike Aultman, pastor.

**Georgetown, Georgetown:** Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Gary White, speaker; Bart Latner, pastor.

**McDonald, Lena:** Nov. 3; registration/fellowship, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; Keith Mangrum and Jerry Williams, pastors.

**Mt. Vernon, West:** Oct. 20; music, 10 a.m.; service, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; H.C. Adams, preacher; Earl Aldridge, music.

**Gooden Lake, Belzoni:** Oct. 20; worship, 10:30 a.m.; David Blackwell, guest speaker; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

**Bentonia, Bentonia:** Oct. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner, noon; Cliff Pace, former pastor and guest

speaker; D.J. Speckner, pastor.

**Sandersville, Sandersville:** Oct. 27; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Ron Swindall, Laurel, guest speaker; Ken Culpepper, Laurel, guest singer; Donnie V. Parker, pastor.

**Union Hall, Brookhaven:** Nov. 2-4; 150th anniversary; Sat., 7 p.m.; Joel Brister and Daryl Oster, speaking; Brister Family and local talent, music; reception following; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Dennis Dunn, speaking; Dunn, his wife Darlene, and Marshall McLaughlin, music; dinner on grounds; Mon., 7 p.m.; Herbert Savell and David Caves, speaking; local talent, music; soup supper.

**Rocky Point, Carthage:** Oct. 24-27; Thu.-Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Mike Everett, Newton, evangelist; Shane McGirney, Corinth Church, music; Marshall Lum, pastor.

**First Oloh, Oloh:** Oct. 20-23; 100th anniversary; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; dinner at noon; worship, 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Jipper Williford, James Sanders, A.J. Pace Jr., Tim Patrick, speakers; David Gilder, Bill Herman, Charlie Steelman, Scott Smith, musicians.

## OBITUARY

**P. Sidney Pitts**, 80, died Wed., Sep. 25, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Visitation was Fri., Sep. 27, in the Family Life Center at First Church, Terry. Memorial services were Sat., Sep. 28 at First Church, Terry.

He served his country in World War II and retired from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission in 1986. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kathryn Pitts Ferrell.

Survivors include: his wife of

53 years, Margaret Fields Pitts; two sons, Larry Fields Pitts of Fort Collins, Colo., and Jerry Purser Pitts of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two daughters, Beth Pitts Hall of Hattiesburg and Amy Pitts Brom of Mill Valley, Calif.; and eight grandchildren.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Kathryn Pitts Ferrell Scholarship Fund, Mississippi College, Box 4005, Clinton, Miss. 39058.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER**, First Baptist Church, Plantersville, Miss. Less than 100 in Sunday school. Fax resume to (662) 842-3632 or e-mail jerrycuta@juno.com

**TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED** twelve miles south of Monticello, is seeking a Bi-Vocational Minister of Music. Primary responsibilities will include directing music during regular worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641.

**STUDENT MINISTER SOUGHT BY** church averaging 154 in Sunday School/70 in Discipleship Training. E-mail resume to Longviewbc@onecall-inc.com or mail to Longview Baptist,

c/o Johnny Sykes, 406 Dozier Hill Rd., Belden, MS 38826. Church located 6 miles east of Pontotoc, MS/10 miles west of Tupelo, MS.

**ORGANIST SEARCH: CALVARY BAPTIST** Church, Tupelo, Miss., is searching for a part-time organist. Must have education and experience. Please send resumes to Organist Search, P.O. Box 1008, Tupelo, MS 38802 or call (662) 842-3338 for more information.

**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**, Aberdeen, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties to include music direction during regular worship services, mid-week rehearsals and special music presentations during the year. Send resumes to the Music Committee, P.O. Box H, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH IN** North Jones County, Laurel, Miss., is seeking a full-time senior pastor. If interested, please contact Dr. Charles Boone, Chairman, Pastor Search Committee at 199 Lake Como Road, Laurel, MS 39443. Phone (601) 428-5244 or phone the church office (601) 425-4276.

## Convention meetings listed

Groups that have notified The Baptist Record of meetings planned around the upcoming annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are:

### Agricultural Missions

The annual meeting of of Agricultural Missions Fellowship is scheduled for 3 p.m. on October 28, at First Church, Jackson. Reservations are not necessary.

Keynote speaker will be retired Southern Baptist missionary Larry J. Johnson. He and his wife Joy served as agricultural evangelists in Peru for 15 years. The fellowship will also hear reports on all projects currently underway, and will elect officers for the coming year.

### Lay Missions Banquet

Mickey Caison, adult volunteer mobilization coordinator for the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, will be the keynote speaker for the Lay Missions Conference Banquet at 5 p.m. on October 28, at First Church, Jackson. The banquet will follow lay missions interest conferences that begin at 3 p.m. for the areas of agricultural, educational, Volunteers in Missions, construction, Campers on Mission, literacy, and restorative justice ministries.

For more information, contact Carol Wright in the Men's Ministry Department at (601) 292-3334, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org

### Mid-America Seminary

The annual Mississippi Mid-America Baptist Seminary Alumni Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30 at 12:00 noon, at Shoney's Restaurant at 680 Larson Street in Jackson. Seminary President Mike Spradlin will be the guest speaker. For more information, contact David Thomas at (662) 236-3513, or shilohbaptist@watervalley.net

### William Carey College

The William Carey College Alumni Association will host a fellowship for alumni and friends on October 29, immediately following the night session, in the Chapel Room of the Baptist Building. For more information, contact Donna Wheeler at (601) 318-6167, or drop by the Carey booth in the exhibit hall at the convention.

Visit us on the web at:  
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**CHRISTMAS IN MEMPHIS**, Renfro Valley, and Nashville with Mississippi Christian Travel; December 6-11. I-55 corridor pick-ups; (601) 835-0467 for info.

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Creating a Distinctive People

Exodus 19:5-6; 20:1-4, 7-10, 12-17

By Gene Neal

Each time God enters into a covenant relationship with His people, we are able to see a new side of His love and grace. God's covenant with Noah revealed God's commitment to and value for life. His covenant with Abraham gave us a hint about the hope for mankind that would come through Jesus. God's relationship with the descendants of Abraham gets deeper and more intimate in this new covenant, the Ten Commandments. Before we can understand anything about this covenant, we must see the motivation behind it. Many see the Ten Commandments as a list of "do's and don'ts," a set of rules given by a domineering dictator with little regard to the wishes of



Neal

man. It is vitally important to the understanding of the Ten Commandments to see the heart of love behind the giving of these laws. In Exodus 19:4 God tells Moses to think back over all the things He has done for them and the ways He has cared for them. It was God's way of saying, "What else can I do to show you how much I love you?" God had freed them from slavery, delivered them from Pharaoh's army, fed them from heaven, given them water from a rock, and defeated their enemies. Over and over, God had demonstrated His love and poured out His grace on Moses and the people. The Ten Commandments make up a beautiful love letter from God to them (and us). The love letter

was God's way of saying, "I love you so much that I can't bear the thought of anything happening to you, so I've written these laws that will protect you and help you live happy, healthy, productive lives. I've done this for you because I love you!"

Again, God shows that this covenant is about relationship when He said in Exodus 19:5 that the people would be His "treasured possession." In Jeremiah 29:11 God said He has great plans for the future of His people and in Hosea 9:10 He refers to His people as a delicacy, like grapes in the desert. God says that the only thing the people have to do to enjoy these wonderful plans is to obey. Notice that obedience is supposed to be a simple thing; obey all the laws all the time. By doing this, the people will be a precious delicacy to God, chosen by Him and set apart for Him with the purpose of enjoying Him to the fullest.

This list of commandments (the love letter) can easily be divided into three categories: man's distinctive relationship with God, man's distinctive reverence for God, and man's distinctive treatment of other people. The first three commandments describe how the relationship with God should be. Before stating the first commandment, God again reminds the people of His love for them. He then describes a beautiful relationship of trust and commitment in which mankind loves, follows, worships, and lives for God exclusively of any other. In this age of tolerance and inclusiveness, we would do well to remember that the belief in and allegiance to only one God is the foundation of our faith and hope for eternity. We must also remember that the only way we have to enter into a relationship with this one God is through His one and only Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). As politically incorrect as this may be, it is the absolute truth.

The fourth commandment

describes the distinctive reverence every person must have for God. We could debate over the difference, if any, in "the Lord's day" and the "Sabbath," but we might miss the point. Whatever else the commandment meant; it reminds us that there should be a reverence of God that changes our lives. Our worship should be intimate and personal, but must never lose sight of the awe and reverence that our God demands. The final six commandments deal with man's distinctive treatment of other people. We should be careful to keep in mind that each of these commandments, while different in content, are all expressing the heart of God and His desire for mankind to act within certain boundaries. The love letter ends with God's commands that we treat each other with love, respect, and dignity. Even in the ways He tells us to treat each other, we see His great love!

Neal is the pastor of First Church, Quitman.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Real Life and God's Spirit

John 7

By Ginger M. Caughman

No Christian does anything worthwhile alone. Only as God enables us to serve Him through His Holy Spirit can we accomplish His work. He uses many co-laborers to accomplish any work for Him. Then we give credit, praise, and honor to our Lord.

Read John 15:4-5. As Christians we memorize those verses and know in our heads that "without Jesus we can do nothing!" In actuality, we think we are self-sufficient. When in truth we are not. Read John 15:26.

An ordinary workday illustration: Through the modern means of computer technology, these edited words go from my Magee office into Tony Martin's computer at The Baptist Record in



Caughman

Jackson. When by God's grace this assignment was offered by mail, we discussed the writing specifications by phone. "I've been having trouble with my printer," I said. "You don't even need a printer. You send the assignments electronically by E-mail." Tony told me how. Three weeks into the assignment the hard drive crashed. My first thought was panic, but I pushed that reaction aside with a sincere prayer for help. I prayed to focus on faith not frustration. What to do? Practice faith! Friends in my church family had concern, advice and a diagnosis. Others had promised to faithfully pray from the beginning. God sent a talented high school senior to help me, take the computer

tower, install a new hard drive, and save all my potentially lost computer files. Therefore, by God's Spirit, each of those and all of you who pray for The Baptist Record staff and writers are co-laborers with Christ on this work. Many of you can relate. For those of you with

out computers this may seem a silly illustration, but every teacher, writer, pastor, or Christian servant can tell similar stories from the daily details of your home, office, or workplace. Christians cannot do the work of God without Christ. Whatever we do, we need each other in the body of Christ! Then we can truthfully give praise to God for all His marvelous work.

1. God Sent Jesus. Read John 7:1-13, 14-24, 25-29.

Jesus was not just someone who grew up in Nazareth; He was The One sent from God, but "even His own brothers did not believe in Him" (v. 5). In this lesson we see Jesus teach-

ing in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles as questions are asked about Him. Religious leaders attempt to find fault in order to arrest Him. Some rejected Christ. Some recognized Jesus as the one sent from God who gives the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him. At salvation each believer has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. How will you seek ways to depend on the Holy Spirit today?

2. Jesus Has Great Power. Read John 7:30-36. As in chapter 2, John again emphasized that the miracles of Jesus point to His deity. Then as now, some accepted Jesus, some rejected Him. Reread John 7:33, a key verse in this lesson.

3. Jesus Gives Us the Spirit. Read John 7:37-44. What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ? The explanation in verse 39 anticipates the teaching on the Holy Spirit found in John 14:16 which we will study in January. The Holy Spirit's work helps the lost receive salvation and helps the saved live for God and bless

others. Are you spiritually thirsty? Jesus says, "Come! Drink! Believe!" (vv. 37-38). Do you depend on the Holy Spirit to help you live the Christian life? Only then can we truly love, forgive and practice the other teachings of Christ Jesus. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at salvation but must daily crucify selfishness to realize the full power of Christ's gift.

Concerning various details in their lives, I've heard many Christians say, "I don't want to bother God with that." God wants us to depend on Him. Since the believer in Jesus has the gift of His Holy Spirit, pray this prayer in times of testing: "Lord I believe, help my unbelief." (Read Mark 9:23-24). Fear and anxiety are the opposite of belief and faith. Focus this week on the spiritual truth: "As the One sent from God, Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him." In which area of your life do you need to depend on the Holy Spirit? Believe.

Caughman is a member of First Church Magee.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

September 16 - 30, 2002

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# Sports ministry seen as effective outreach

HOUSTON (BP) — When Richland Creek Community Church decided to conduct a sports camp a few years ago, many of their own children could not attend. Recognizing a limited capacity, they chose to open it primarily to children

who may have no other opportunity to hear the Gospel.

The Wake Forest, N.C., church is one of the best examples of using sports ministry to focus on non-Christians rather than members, said Victor Lee, a sports ministry evangelism consultant for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta.

"The first year 17 kids received Christ, and over the course of the next year 17 parents or siblings of those family members came to Christ," Lee said. "The point is to have a sports camp that intentionally targets lost people. If you just target your kids, that's not intentionally reaching your audience."

Lee led a workshop on "Evangelism Bridges to a Sports Crazy World" during "Church on the

Cutting Edge," a conference involving more than 3,000 church leaders co-sponsored by the NAMB and Second Church of Houston.

For churches trying to find ways to connect with the unchurched in their communities, the fact that 96% of the population is linked to sports in some way is good reason to seriously consider the evangelism possibilities, said Lee, who also is minister of evangelism and single adults for Concord First Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Camps like the one in Wake Forest can be as effective as Vacation Bible Schools in reaching unchurched children, Lee said. At Richland, kids in a lower-income neighborhood would be picked up at 8 a.m. and brought home at 4 p.m. They would receive training in four different sports each day — along with Christian teaching.

"They had the Gospel shared in most of those classes in some way," Lee said.

Sports clinics offer a similar, more concentrated focus on just one sport — with participants rotating through different stations receiving pointers and training on particular skills.

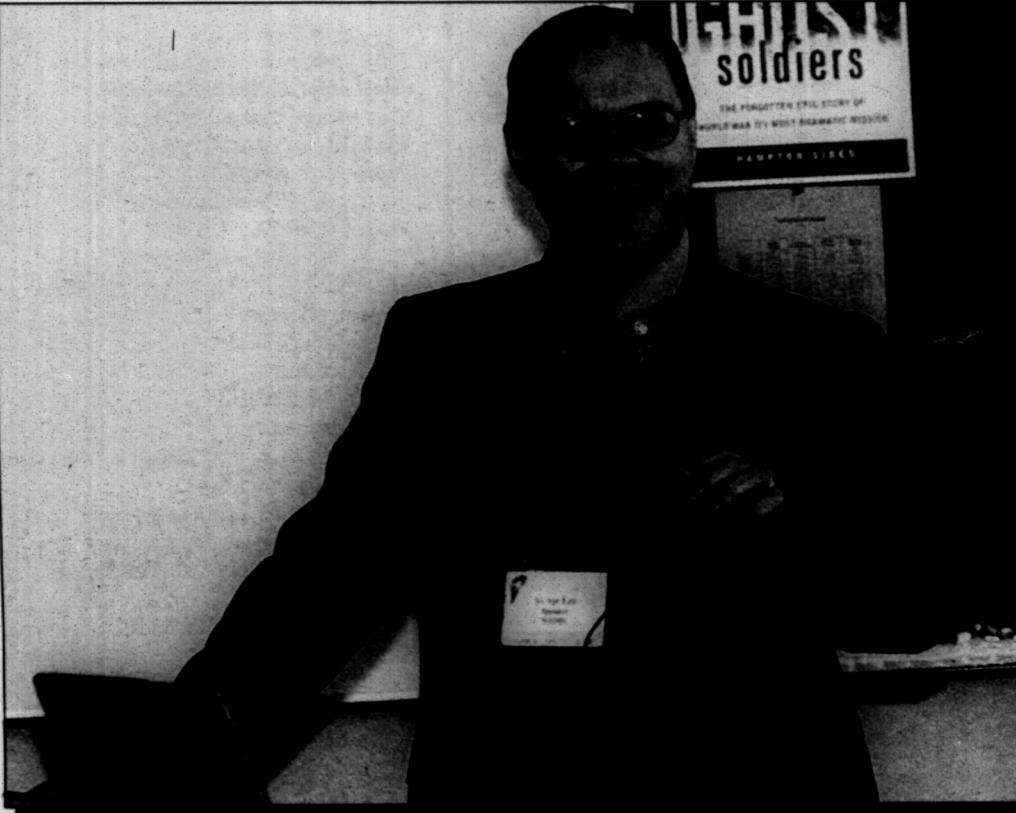
At the end of the clinic, the Gospel is shared and participants are given an opportunity to respond. He said as many as 15-20% of participants often make professions of faith.

"You work the two hours and 15 minutes to earn the right to do that 15 minutes," Lee said.

Sports leagues also can be effective evangelism tools, but they work best when they are designed from the outset with evangelism as a priority. If all of the players on a softball team are Christians, for instance, he suggested joining an industrial or other secular league to allow time for the Christians to build witnessing relationships with other players.

Another way to be intentionally evangelistic is to decide at the outset that if there are five Christians on a softball team, there will also be five "free agents" who aren't members of any church.

"You've got the course of the season to live your faith in front of them," Lee said, later adding, "We've got to open up our mentality. We have too many closed facilities for the God-squad only, and Jesus wouldn't even play in those places, I'm convinced."



**SPORTS AS KEY** — Victor Lee, a sports evangelism consultant for the North American Mission Board, told participants in the Church on the Cutting Edge conference in Houston, Texas, that 96% of the population is involved with sports in some way — and thus sports can be an excellent bridge for evangelistic outreach. (BP photo by James Dotson)

## Summit: law officers have spiritual needs, too

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Being a cop is a tough job, but being tough doesn't mean cops don't need a soft and pliable heart for God.

More than 120 law enforcement officers from 13 states, many with their spouses, attended the first annual Law Enforcement Summit sponsored by and held at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina October 1-3.

Ralph Sexton, pastor of Trinity Church in Asheville, N.C., who has served for 30 years as a special deputy and chaplain in surrounding Buncombe County, led the summit.

"The implications in your life after these three days could be life-changing, not only personally, but professionally as well," Sexton said as he welcomed the officers to Ridgecrest. "You can be helped and encouraged and can take that light back with you to your places of work."

Sexton said on Sept. 11, 2001, America saw that the first line of defense against terrorism in America is not the military, it's local law enforcement officers.

"You are our homeland security," he said. "The reason you are the first line of defense is you know your towns, your neighborhoods. You know the good guys and the bad guys."

Most people have no idea the pressures police officers work under each day, he said. "Most people who go to work don't wear full body armor."

Wayne Barber, pastor of Hoffmantown Church in

Albuquerque, told the officers not to condemn themselves when they feel like they have failed in their jobs.

"Failure is a wonderful tool. It teaches us that you can't, but God can," he said.

Now a psychologist, Bobby Smith, a former Louisiana police trooper who lost his vision after being shot in the face during a routine traffic stop in March 1986, told the officers to leave their cop side at work and trust God and their families.

"Never bring the cop into your home. Leave the cop outside the door," he said. "I lost my sight, my position, my wife, and my financial stability."

"I lost everything, and I knew I needed something. When I was lying in a pool of blood, not knowing if I would live or die, I called out to God, begging for one more chance. You see, even though I was a Christian, I had put God on the shelf for 10 years."

Smith said because officers are taught to trust no one, they assume that means God and their family.

"In the academy, we are taught to put up this shield that separates 'us' from 'them,' but soon it starts to separate us from our wives and our kids. This can cause problems when we don't let ourselves trust God either."

In commenting on the conference, Scott Flowers, deputy sheriff in Rowan County, N.C.,

said it was "just awesome. It's so good to see other Christian officers who aren't scared to share their faith. I loved seeing



**SHERIFF'S COUNSEL** — Tim Hawsey, Escambia County (Alabama) sheriff, underscored the need for law enforcement officers to protect themselves spiritually while they are on the job. Hawsey spoke during the October 1-3 Law Enforcement Summit at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Jenny Creel, a corporal with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, said the conference served as "a renewal. I needed this. I've enjoyed every minute of it. The spiritual side of being in law enforcement just isn't talked about at work."

Creel said she learned about the summit from the minister of music at her church, Sales Tree Church in Lake Charles, La.

"He found out about the conference on the Internet on LifeWay.com and said I should think about going. My church even helped sponsor my trip."

Paul Phillips, a Ridgecrest volunteer who is retired from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and his wife Elizabeth coordinated the Law Enforcement Summit.

"I know law enforcement," he said. "I know we made inroads on what will happen back at home," he said.

"After the response to this summit, I expect next year's to be even bigger. There are so many officers who could be helped. I hope more churches will consider sponsoring their members who are in law enforcement."

The 2003 Law Enforcement Summit at Ridgecrest is set for Sept. 30-Oct. 2. For more information, call (800) 588-7222.

### Bibliocipher

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SCL MUKT QUACTBLVUR

DC XRUPR KRLU

BSS QCR. LNC SUTA

VO BL NBRA.

YNVSYYYVBRO EUKT:

EUKT

Clue: Y=P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Galatians Four: Four.